

# READER'S'S CHOICE 2024



Arusha's Coffee was created in 2012 when Hatem Chouchane and Ernst Jacques purchased Heidenheimer Coffee on East Street in Downtown Belton. In this year's Reader's Choice Awards, they won best place to meet people. Pictured is Jacques with beans they roast on site.





*The Readers have  
SPOKEN!*

**Best of the Best**  
**Wedding**

Florist: Woods Florist  
Gift Shop: My Giving Tree  
Jewelry: My Giving Tree  
Print Shop: Custom Signs  
Venue: Tirzah  
Wedding Caterer: Schoepf's BBQ



**Best of the Best**  
**in the County**

Art Gallery: Grace Art Gallery  
Bank: Extraco Bank  
Barber: East St. Barber  
Beauty Shop: Greenbriar Salon  
Best Youth Pastor: Crossroads Church  
Best Pastor: First Baptist Church Belton  
Building Supplies: McCoy's  
Church: First Baptist Church Belton  
College: UMHB  
Community Event: Market Days  
Convenience Store: Speedy Mart  
County's Attraction: July 4th Celebration  
Dance group: Rusty Dusters  
Elementary School: Lakewood  
Entertainment: Schoepf's BBQ  
Feed Store: Belton Feed  
Golf Course: Sammons Golf Course  
High School: Belton High  
Hotel: Hilton  
Lawn & Garden: Belton Feed  
Middle School: South Belton  
Movie Theater: Grand Avenue  
Museum: Temple Children's Museum  
Private School: CTCS  
Service Organization: Helping Hands  
Swimming Pool: Summer Fun  
Towing: Temple Towing

## RealSkin wins reader's choice dermatology category

By Michelle Rodriguez  
The Belton Journal

Every year the Belton Journal prints a poll in a September asking reader's opinions of their favorite businesses in the area. There are subscribers in Belton, Morgan's Point Resort, Temple, and the surrounding areas.

"We give a list of categories for readers to vote and allow them to enter a category in case we missed one, so they can vote for all of their favorite businesses. This time of year, we are doing the most shopping and servicing of our vehicles for long trips. We need exceptional care for pets and our homes while we are on vacation or after company leaves. We have compiled a list of businesses voted by

readers to ensure businesses can give the best Central Texas welcome, said the Belton Journal Sales Executive Kimberly Cables.

In the dermatology category reader's chose RealSkin, located at 1618 Canyon Creek Dr #120 in Temple, as their favorite dermatology clinic.

"We have 10 clinics throughout central Texas. We are a rural dermatology practice offering great care in the region close to patient's home. We provide medical, surgical dermatology, aesthetic dermatology, Mohs micrographic surgery, and radiation therapy for skin cancer," said Russell Rowe, M.D.

They just celebrated their 5th year as an independent practice. They also just opened their own building in Woodway that is 5,000 square feet

with 12 exam rooms.

"We celebrate everyday with our patients. We are very proud and humble to be recognized and appreciated by our fellow residents. We've lived in Bell County since 2012. I spent 22 years in the Army and served from 2012-2015 at Fort Hood," said Dr. Rowe.

He started his own practice in 2019. All three of his daughters graduated from Belton High School. He's supported Belton through different arenas. He's supported the cheerleaders and football team. He offers an annual scholarship to students at Belton High School.

"The \$1,000 scholarship is a part of the Belton Educational Enrichment Foundation named the William Rowe Memorial Scholarship in remembrance

of my dad. It's designed for dependents of active-duty military. I was deployed to Iraq twice and Afghanistan four times. We moved 10 times in 22 years, so we know how hard it is for military families. We were able to put down roots in Belton," said Dr. Rowe.

He is board certified in dermatology and his wife Susie is his front desk person and a willing partner. They started the business five years ago, knowing independent practice is not easy. Their desire to put the patients first ahead of the business is why they started. They focus on patient care as opposed to working in a large organization. The clinics outside of Temple are located in Brownwood, Clifton, Comanche, Fairfield, Gatesville, Hamilton, Hillsboro, Marlin, Temple, and Woodway.

**Real Skin**  
DERMATOLOGY

Open Mon-Fri  
8:00am - 4:30pm

### Comprehensive Dermatology Services in Central Texas

- Common Skin Issues
- Common Nail Issues
- Common Hair Issues
- Procedural Dermatology
- Aesthetics
- Skin Cancer Screening and Surveillance

**Local. Trusted. Proven Character.**

1-855-RealDoc (732-5362)

1618 Canyon Creek Dr #120, Temple, TX 76502



Calling All

# Vintage Lovers

Voted Best  
Antiques &  
Collectables



216 E. Central Ave Belton, Texas  
(254) 933-8833  
[exchangeoncentral.com](http://exchangeoncentral.com)



# THANK YOU

FOR VOTING



## FLOOR STORE & MORE

# #1

## IN LOCAL FLOORING SALES & INSTALLATION

WE'RE HONORED TO BE BELTON'S  
PREFERRED FLOORING & TILE PROVIDER  
AND IT'S OUR PRIVILEGE TO SERVE YOU



## JONES HOME & AUTO SUPPLY

Thank you for making us the #1 shop for auto repair, auto supplies, and quality tires from Bridgestone, Firestone, and Fuzion. We have been serving the city of Belton, Texas since 1950. We pride ourselves in offering the same level of service we offered back then. If you need new tires, we have the right set for you.

### SERVICES

- Axle & CV Joint Repair
- Climate Control Systems
- Engine Diagnostics and Performance
- Lube, Oil & Filter Change
- Steering and Suspension System
- Transmission Service
- Brake Repair
- Cooling System Repair
- Exhaust System Repair
- Starting, Charging & Batteries
- Tire Services
- Wheel Alignment

(254) 939.3785

103 N Main St  
Belton, TX 76513

## HOW I FEEL WHEN YOU READ THE BELTON JOURNAL

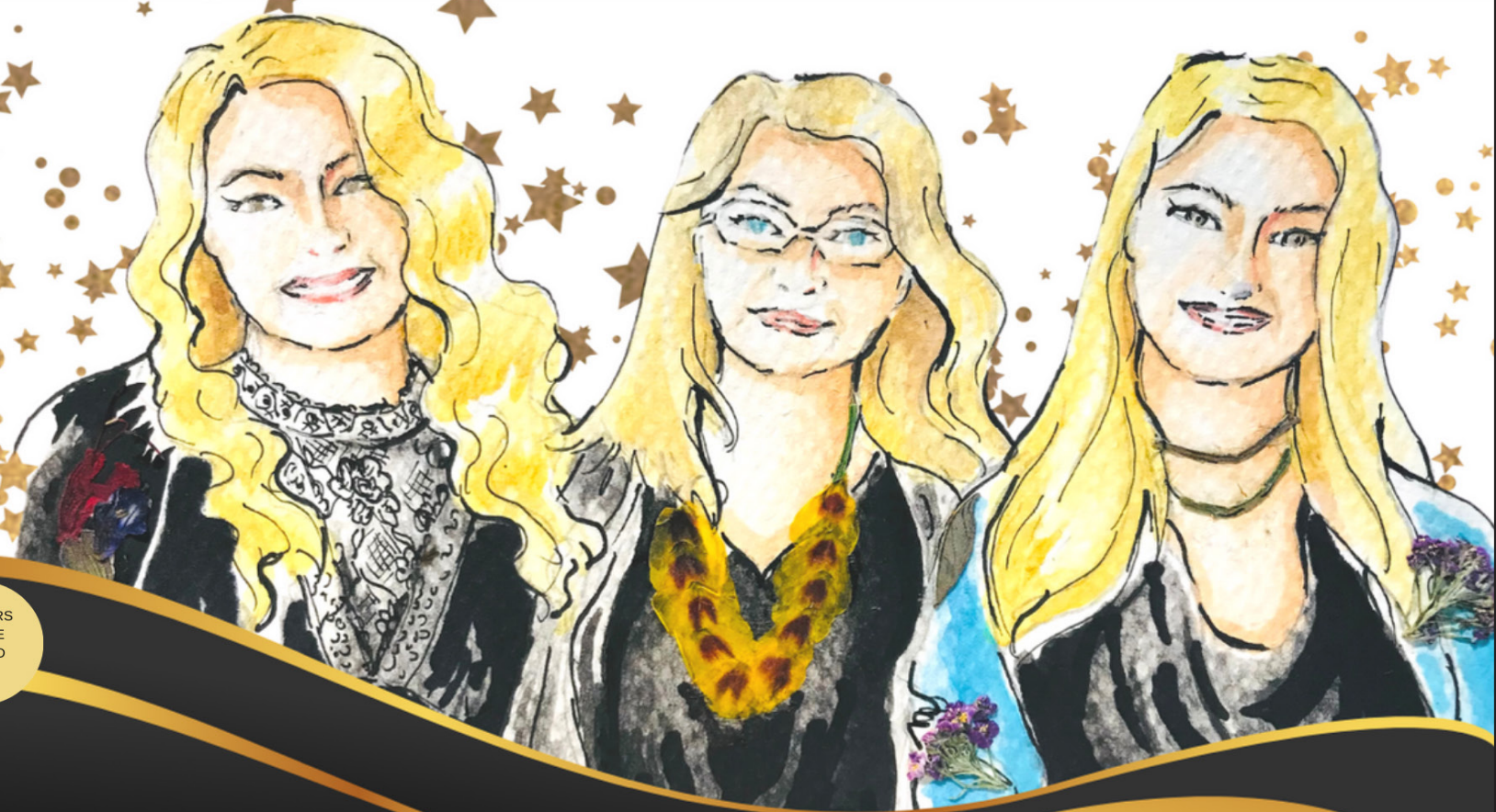


You'RE  
-THE-  
greatest

Subscribe  
Today  
**\$20**  
Annually



THANK YOU VOTING US THE BEST!



READERS  
CHOICE  
AWARD  
HERE



121 N. EAST STREET, DOWNTOWN BELTON

MY GIVING TREE (254)939-8733 ★★ ★ iMERAKi (254)831-5101



*"It's All About  
Being Our Best"*



**ZSA ZSA HOWELL,**  
L.E., M.A.P., L.S.O.  
Specializing In  
Pro-Aging Collagen  
Rejuvenation And  
Adult Acne

Voted #1  
Alternative to  
Botox, Fillers,  
Facelifts and Threads

**Results Driven**

MEDICAL AESTHETICS

2919 S. Market Loop, Temple



**254-541-7837** • [www.ZMedicalAesthetics.com](http://www.ZMedicalAesthetics.com)



# Best of the Best SHOPPING

Antiques & Collectibles: The  
Exchange

Appliances: Lowe's

Book Store: McWha's

Children's Wear: Lindy Lu's

Consignment Shop: Lindy Lu's

Eyewear: Walmart Vision

Firearms: Sendero Shooting

Flooring: Floor Store & More

Furniture: Bob Mills

Home Décor: My Giving Tree

Mattress Store: Walkers Mattress

Men's Wear: iMERAKi

Office Supply: Perry's

Paint Store: Bartek Paint

Pharmacy: Walmart

Shoes: Cochran, Blair & Potts

Sporting Goods: Academy

Supermarket: HEB

Thrift store: Darling Thrift

Western Wear: Cochran,

Blair & Potts

Wine Shop: HEB

Women's Wear: Zooty's

**VOTED**

# Best REALTOR®

BUY, SELL, INVEST,  
RESIDENTIAL & NEW HOME SALES

**2024**

Thank you, Central Texas for your support!

**Maria Jones Hall**


**254-563-9058**

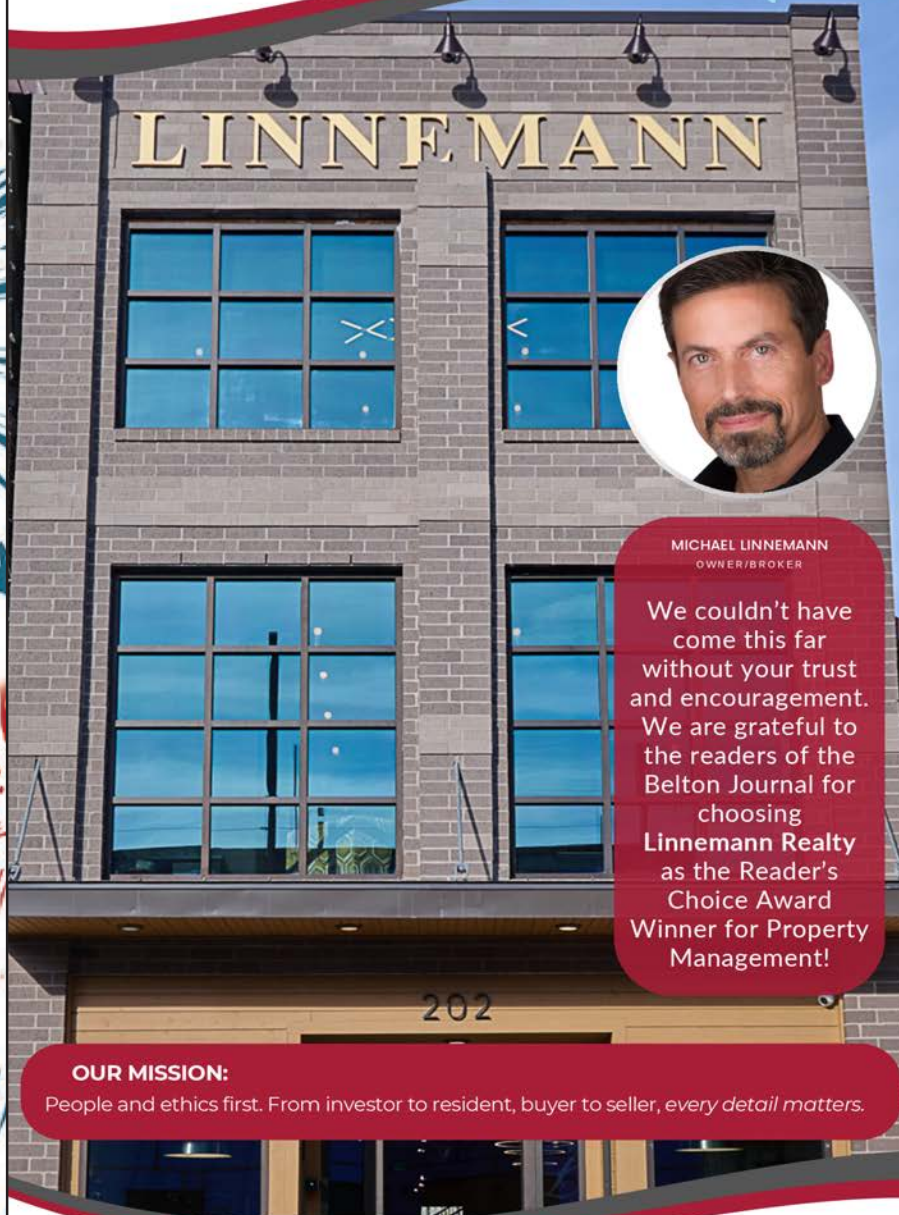
**HomesForSaleWithMaria@gmail.com**






THANKS FOR YOUR *Vote!*








MICHAEL LINNEMANN  
OWNER/BROKER


We couldn't have come this far without your trust and encouragement. We are grateful to the readers of the Belton Journal for choosing Linnemann Realty as the Reader's Choice Award Winner for Property Management!



OUR MISSION:

People and ethics first. From investor to resident, buyer to seller, every detail matters.





202 E. Central Ave.  
Belton, TX 76513  
linnemannrealty.com  
254.628.9272






Thanks

Central Texas for voting our **Smash Burger** and our **Fries** as the Reader's Choice Winners. If you haven't visited us before, please stop by and find out what the fuss is all about!



111 ½ N. East Street, Belton, TX, 76513  
adjacent to the Courtyard at Level 3

 [Level3Belton.com](https://Level3Belton.com)





**THANK YOU FOR THE VOTES!**

**254-613-4420**

**110 E. Central Ave.**  
FORMERLY RAZZLE DAZZLE

# Best of the Best

## FOOD & DINING

Alcohol: Off the Rails  
Appetizers: Mosaic Grill  
Bakery: Miller's Smokehouse  
Barbecue: Schoepf's  
Breakfast: Miller's  
Smokehouse  
Buffet: China Cafe  
Business Lunch: The Gin

Catering: Mosaic Grill  
Catfish: Dead Fish Grill  
Chicken: Popeyes  
Chicken Fried Steak:  
Clem Mikeska's  
Deli: Katy Deli  
Desserts: Miller's  
Smokehouse

# Thanks for buying local!

We're honored to be Belton's  
choice for office supplies.

- Easy Online Ordering
- Next-Day Delivery
- Local Support Team

Supplies • Furniture • Facility  
Custom Print & Promo Products

**PERRY**office  
plus

Your workday just got better.



The Perry Customer Support Team: *Michelle, Brenda, Heather*

**254-939-5734 • perryop.com**



- Dining Atmosphere: Dead Fish Grill

Donuts: Little Bohemian

Enchiladas: Coronas de Oro

Fajitas: Coronas de Oro

Fast Food: Crow's Burgers

First Date: Napolis

Food Truck: Pizza PieRos

French Fries: Level 3

Grill: Clem Mikeska's

Hamburger: Level 3

Health Food Store: Natural Grocers

Hot Dogs: Sonic

Hot Sauce: Taqueria Mexicano

Grill & Bar

Ice Cream/Yogurt: Popcorn Friday

Italian: Napolis

Margarita's: Coronas de Oro

Meat Market: L&R

Meet for Coffee: Arusha's
- Mexican: Coronas de Oro

Oriental: Narunya's

Pizza: Oakfire

Place to Meet People: Arusha's

Coffee

Sandwiches: Katy Deli

Seafood: Dead Fish Grill

Special Occasion: Common Wealth

Steaks: Schoepf's

Sushi: China Cafe

Take Out: Narunyas

To Take Out of Town Guests: Jody's

Winery: BeeMaRosa



Have a 'hometown' night.

**DINE LOCAL!**

Thank you for voting us

**the Best**

**FOOD TRUCK**

**BUY 1  
GET 1  
FREE**

*Of Equal or lesser value, Any 12" Pizzas*

**254-727-9822- For Katy Building,**

**254-727-0563 For Weekly Events**

*203 N. East St. Ste B, Belton*

**Pizza PieRos**

**Helping Texans**

is at the heart of H-E-B.

When Texans are in need, we lend a hand. We fight hunger, provide disaster relief, and honor our educators and military. We do this for one simple reason. **We are from here, so we are helping here.**

**H-E-B**

**HelpingHere**

HUNGER RELIEF ★ EDUCATION  
DIVERSITY ★ HEALTH & WELLNESS  
SUSTAINABILITY ★ DISASTER RELIEF  
MILITARY APPRECIATION

Learn more at [heb.com/community](https://heb.com/community)

©2021 HEB, 21-6645



# Things to know before giving pets as gifts

Imagine this scenario: A family is gathered around exchanging presents. There is one last gift tucked away. You hand the present to a child, and he or she opens it to find a puppy or kitten. The tears of happiness start flowing and the big smiles on all involved will be forever captured in photos and video. The pet immediately becomes a cherished member of the family.

Of course this scenario is perfect when giving a pet as a gift. A recent ASPCA study found that pets received as gifts generally have a low return rate. According to the survey, 96 percent of the people who received pets as gifts thought it either increased or had no impact on their love or attachment to that pet. The survey also revealed no difference in attachment based on the gift being a surprise or being known in advance.

Even with such sunny outcomes, there is still the possibility that a pet given as a surprise gift may not be welcomed with open arms. In fact, many animal organizations frown upon giving pets as gifts. Rather than getting into a situation where an animal's welfare could be at risk, it is important to keep a few things in mind when considering gifting a pet.

- Don't make it a surprise. Unless it's for your own children, do not give a pet as a surprise gift. Even if a person has expressed an interest in having a pet, he or she may not be ready at the moment. Talk the gift idea over with the potential recipient if your mind is set on gifting a pet so that you can make it a collaborative effort. The thought is still there.

- Pay for adoption fees. You can visit a shelter and preemptively pay the adoption fees if you know that a person will be adopting a pet in the near future.

This way you can make the gift a surprise and enable the recipient to choose the right timing to go pick out a pet.

- Offer supplies instead. Another pet-related gift idea is to offer a gift card to a nearby pet retailer so that the person will be able to stock up on supplies when the time comes to get a pet.

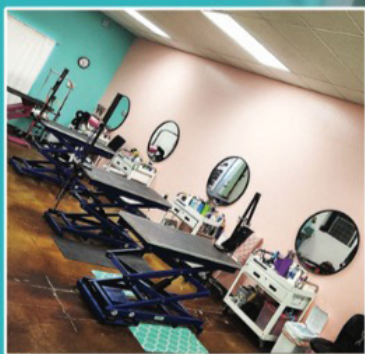
- Do not act on impulse. A pet is a very personal decision. Even if someone you know is very interested in getting a pet, he or she may want to pick out the pet rather than have that choice made by a loved one. Taking away the opportunity to select and bond with a given companion animal could backfire.

Although giving pets as gifts often works out for the best, it's always best to test the waters and tread carefully to maximize the chances that the pet fits in at its new home.

## MobiDog

**THANK YOU FOR VOTING US  
BEST PET GROOMER  
IN THE BELTON JOURNAL!**

**LUXURY PET SALON  
BARKERY & BOUTIQUE**



**254.939.6624 | 4311 S. 31ST ST, STE 160, TEMPLE, TX 76502**



# Best of the Best PEOPLE



Accountant: Alton Thiele  
Attorney: Josh Pearson  
Bank Teller: Kyle Gonzales-  
1st Convenience Bank  
Barber: Lauri Zarate  
Beautician: Lauri Zarate  
Boss: Adriana Juarez  
City Employee: Judy Garrett

Club President: Cynthia Hernandez-  
Rotary  
Dentist: Dr. Cox  
Grocery Store Clerk: Logan Mayberry  
Insurance Agent: John Corsi State Farm  
Local Band: Jay White  
Local Celebrity: Kirk Baxley  
Photographer: Christopher Winston

Radio News Anchor: Ann Harder  
Real Estate Agent: Maria Jones  
Salesperson: Kimberly Cables  
Travel Agent: Your Travel Agent  
TV News Anchor: Sean Bellafiore  
Unsung Hero: First Responders  
Veterinarian: Dr. Blackstone  
Waiter/Waitress: Kate Pearson

**When someone you love faces a life-limiting illness, count on us for the physical, emotional and spiritual support to help them live comfortably with dignity and grace.**

  
**gentiva**  
HOSPICE



Our place is by your side

(254)742-2000

[gentivahs.com](http://gentivahs.com)







# Tanner Roofing



READERS  
CHOICE  
WINNER 2024



**THANKS FOR VOTING US BEST IN  
ROOFING FOR 2022, 2023, AND 2024!**

(254) 939-0343

TANNERROOFING.COM

1100 E. 6th Ave. Belton, TX 76513





Central  Texas

**DON RINGLER**

AUTOMOTIVE

**TOYOTA**

**CHEVROLET**



**BEST CHEVY**

**BEST NEW CAR**

**BEST USED CARS & TRUCKS**

**BEST TOYOTA**

**BEST NEW TRUCK**

**WE'LL DO  
What It  
TAKES**

**SERVING  
CENTRAL TEXAS  
SINCE 1979**

**DON RINGLER  
AUTOMOTIVE  
FAMILY  
PLAN  
\$3,000 ADVANTAGE**



254.774.6500  
800.460.3728

DONRINGLERTOYOTA.COM | DONRINGLERCHEVROLET.COM  
EXIT 294B OFF I-35 BETWEEN BELTON AND TEMPLE





# Senior Services

Assisted Living: Brookdale Western Hills  
 Estate Planning: Rainey & Rainey  
 Funeral Home: Harper Talasek  
 Hearing Aids: Texas Hearing  
 Home Health: Home Instead  
 Hospice: Gentiva  
 Independent living: Heart of Central Texas  
 Independent Living  
 Law Firm Tie: Baird & Zimmerman  
 Medicare Insurance: Golden Age Health Plans  
 Memory Care: Stoney Brook  
 Nursing Home: Park Place Manor  
 Rehabilitation: Integrity Rehab  
 Residential Home: Little Elm Residential Care/  
 Country Home Personal Care



Dave Covington  
Broker/Owner



Terri Covington  
Broker Assoc.



Tonya Jarvis  
REALTOR®



Sharon Schlafer  
REALTOR®



Paula Golden  
REALTOR®



**COVINGTON**  
Real Estate, Inc.

Thank you to *The Belton Journal* readers for  
 selecting Covington Real Estate, as the 2024  
 Reader's Choice for  
**BEST REAL ESTATE COMPANY!**

We love our community! Our experienced, full-  
 time agents know the area, invest in the area,  
 and live in the area. So, whether you are looking  
 to buy, sell, or invest, we are here for you!

Contact us today at 254-939-3800!

[www.gocov.com](http://www.gocov.com)



Rowena Miller  
Broker Assoc.



Teresa McCoy  
REALTOR®



Kenny Johnston  
REALTOR®



Lisa Comeau  
REALTOR®



Laura Luedeke  
REALTOR®



Tanya Cospier  
REALTOR®



Sonya White  
REALTOR®



Tina Smith  
Broker Assoc.





**2024 READERS' CHOICE WINNER**

THANK YOU FOR VOTING US BEST IN BANKING!  
WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS.



**YOUR ONE-STOP-SHOP**  
Scan QR to learn more.







Customer Satisfaction Rating  
Premier Dealer Rating: 4.7

THIS RATING SHOULD IMPROVE YOUR  
**COMFORT LEVEL**

Another Way We Make You Feel Better.

Customer ratings gathered by an independent survey firm.  
Rating subject to change.

**LENNOX**  
PREMIER DEALER™

**Voted Best A/C  
Business in the  
Belton area**

**Bell** INC.  
Air Conditioning

**254-877-2628**

Locally Owned and Operated Since 1964  
Visit us at [www.bellaircond.com](http://www.bellaircond.com)

**THANK YOU FOR VOTING US THE BEST!**

© 2018 Lennox Industries Inc. Lennox Dealers are independently owned and operated businesses. LIC #TACLA21562E

## Residential home care owner strives to offer quality care

*Special to the Journal*

I own and operate Little Elm Residential Care Home in Temple, TX. We provide a crucial service for individuals who cannot care for themselves, supporting them until the end of life. Our residents become an integral part of our family, receiving exceptional care that is simply unmatched in the community. With over 32 years of extensive caregiving experience, I recognized the resource gaps in our community, which solidified my commitment to opening our doors. We offer three private rooms, each with everything necessary for an outstanding quality of life, along with other services personalized for each resident.

My passion for helping others drives me to fulfill our area's vital need for quality care. I founded this residential care home because people deserve to feel heard and valued. Many people ask for assistance caring for their loved ones. Each person receives individualized care planning,

allowing them to be active in their daily care.

We believe that families of patients should actively participate in their care, which enhances continuity for everyone. This approach reduces stress, enabling families to focus on being families rather than caregivers. We aim to lighten the load on families, fostering healing relationships so that loved ones can cherish their time together and our residents can enjoy meaningful moments with their families.

Our comprehensive wrap-around services, including social work, chaplaincy, mental health support, and experienced caregiving, distinguish us from other facilities. We also provide end-of-life doula services to guide families and patients through dying, facilitating end-of-life planning and addressing often-overlooked needs. My mission is clear: to carry out my life's calling, care for others with the dignity and respect they deserve, and deliver exceptional end-of-life care in a beautiful, peaceful, and quiet home.



**BEST TIRE SHOP!**

THANK YOU BELL COUNTY-  
FOR VOTING US NUMBER 1!

**McGuire Tire**

**103 Lake Rd. • Belton • 254-939-1357**

**603 S. 1st • Temple • 254-773-3114**

**"Since 1947"**

**McGuireTire.com**



**LITTLE ELM RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME**

At Little Elm Residential Care Home, we are committed to providing the highest quality care to the residents in our home.

We live onsite, sharing our home with you. Call us today for a tour and meet and greet!

254-314-8340  
[littleelmrch.com](http://littleelmrch.com)



# Best of the Best AUTOMOTIVE

Auto Parts: O'Reilly  
 Auto Repair: Jones Home & Auto  
 Car Rental: Enterprise  
 Chevrolet Dealership: Don Ringler  
 Dent repair: Extreme Hail & Dent  
 Farm Equipment: Belton Feed  
 Ford Dealership: Johnson Brothers  
 New Car Dealership: Don Ringler  
 Nissan Dealership: Garlyn Shelton  
 Oil Change: Valvoline  
 Tires: McGuire Tire  
 Toyota Dealership: Don Ringler  
 Truck Dealership: Don Ringler  
 Used Car Dealership: Don Ringler



# Best of the Best SERVICES

Air Conditioning: Bell Air  
 Alarm/Security: Tim's Alarm  
 Carpet Cleaning: Bell County  
 Flooring  
 Chiropractor: Nueva Health  
 Clinic: Baylor Scott & White  
 Credit Union: Texell  
 Day Care: Bright Beginnings  
 Dental Office: Belton Family  
 Dermatology: RealSkin Dermatol-  
 ogy  
 Dry Cleaning: Johnnie's Cleaners  
 Employment Agency: Express  
 Financial Advisor: Matt Gunter  
 Gym: Extreme Cheer  
 Home Leveling: Claude Allen  
 Insurance Agency: John Corsi State  
 Farm  
 Internet Provider: Grande Commu-  
 nications  
 Landscaping: Grizzly's

Mortgage: Fairway  
 Nail Salon: Greenbriar  
 Orthodontist: West Temple Ortho  
 Pawn Shop: 1st Cash Pawn  
 Pest Control: Hartman Pest  
 Pet Grooming: Mobi Dog  
 Plumbing: Nagy  
 Property Management: Linnemann  
 Realty  
 Real Estate Agency: Covington  
 Roofing: Tanner  
 Shipping Center: UPS Belton  
 Shoe Repair: Bob's Boot and Shoe  
 Repair  
 Signs/Banners: Custom Signs  
 Skincare: Z Medical Aesthetics  
 Spa: Woodhouse Day Spa  
 Tax Service: Alton Thiele  
 Title Company: Monteith Abstract  
 Veterinarian: Belton Small Animal  
 Clinic

# SERVICE & VALUE FOR THE WIN





**LARRISSA CALI, DMD, MSD**  
BOARD CERTIFIED ORTHODONTIST



**THANK YOU  
FOR VOTING US  
THE BEST  
ORTHODONTIST!**

We Are Proud To Offer The  
Latest Digital Orthodontic Treatment  
And Personalized Dental Care To  
The Central Texas Community.



**WEST TEMPLE  
ORTHODONTICS**

254.899.2500

120 MORGAN'S POINT RD STE 102

BELTON, TX 76513

[WESTTEMPLEORTHODONTICS.COM](http://WESTTEMPLEORTHODONTICS.COM)



# John Corsi State Farm wins reader's choice for favorite insurance agency

By Michelle Rodriguez

The Belton Journal

Readers voted and picked John Corsi, State Farm, located at 101 Lake Road in Belton, as their favorite insurance agency. State Farm sells auto, homeowners, renters, life, disability, and several other products related to insurance.

"I'm super excited and honored I was voted reader's choice. State Farm is a great company and I'm fortunate to represent them. I try to be involved with the community, civically. I am a former President of the Belton Lions Club. I've been involved in several school committees for Belton I.S.D.



and other projects. I'm also on the board for the chamber of commerce,"

said State Farm insurance agent John Corsi.

Corsi is a former educator. He was a high school principal, coach, and teacher, then changed careers after 15 years. He was an insurance agent and also worked in corporate as a sales leader for State Farm. He's been with State Farm for over 17 years.

"I'm happy I got to come back to Belton in 2017 and take over for Barry Harper who retired. He was a great agent," said Corsi.

He's won 6 years in a row.

"I'm very honored to have won the last 6 years in a row. I have a wonderful staff that works very hard and try to take care of our customers and give exceptional service," said Corsi.



**Like a Good Neighbor State Farm is There**



**John Corsi Voted Best Insurance Agent Sixth year in a Row!**





2024

**101 LAKE ROAD • 254-939-5846**  
**(FM439, SOUTHWEST CORNER OF MAIN & LAKE ROAD) BELTON, TX**



# Harper-Talasek wins reader's choice for best funeral home



**By Michelle Rodriguez**

*The Belton Journal*

Readers voted and picked Harper-Talasek for best funeral home. They've been in the business since 1964 and have 3 locations: Belton, Temple, and Killeen.

"I'm excited about it! It's good to see our hard work and efforts are paying off and we are serving our families and our community," said prearrangement/aftercare specialist Jack McChurch.

They are investing in their facilities to better service their families, community, staff and adding community outreach. The facilities will receive small areas of remodeling and staff will go through additional training. They are

doing things to become more involved with the community.

"We do a major car show in Temple each year in Sept. Next year it will be on Sept. 21. It's called Classics for CARing for the benefit of Our Hospice House. They provide final time of life housing for hospice patients for the last month. Some families don't have housing for patients for them to be comfortable. We host and sponsor and provide all the organization for the event," said McChurch.

They also host the Annual 9/11 First Responders Appreciation every year.

"We are looking for opportunities to be more involved in our community. With every family that comes to us, we strive to make the service personal," said McChurch.



## We Make It Personal.

### Services Offered

- Traditional Funeral Services
- Cremation Services
- Veteran Services
- Special Services

The loss of a loved one can leave you with a lot of unanswered questions, feelings of stress, and anxiety and grief that makes events difficult to handle. Harper-Talasek Funeral Homes - Belton, will guide you through the aspects of the funeral service with compassion, dignity, and respect.

503 North Main St Belton, TX 76513

254- 939-2411

[belton.harpertalasek.com](http://belton.harpertalasek.com)



# How communities benefit when consumers shop local

Ideas about shopping are never set in stone, as we have seen in the past recent years just how quickly consumer trends and opinions can change. Many individuals are now reevaluating how they spend their hard-earned money, particularly since inflation has affected just how far a dollar can be stretched. When consumers think about which stores to patronize, locally owned businesses may be the smartest option for a number of reasons — not the least of which is the way such enterprises benefit the communities they call home.

## More money kept in the community

Shopping locally means that more money will stay in the community. According to recent research from Civic Economics, local eateries return nearly 79 percent of revenue to the community, compared to just over 30 percent for chain restaurants. Overall, for every \$100 spent at a local business, around \$73 remains in the community, versus roughly \$43 when shopping at a non-locally owned business.

## Get a personal touch

Local business owners typically are inclined to go the extra mile for their customers and are personally invested in the services and products they are selling. As a result, shopping locally tends to be a personalized experience. Furthermore, a local business owner may be more amenable to ordering products for specific clientele. Such person-

alized service is typically not accessible when shopping big box stores or other shops where owners are off-site.

## Lines are short

Waiting in long lines for checkout or to pick up merchandise ordered online can drain consumers' energy and contribute to stress. Local businesses tend to have short lines and small crowds, which can lead to a more pleasant shopping experience.

## Generates tax revenue

Local businesses generate more tax revenue per sales dollar, according to Rubicon, a digital marketplace for waste and recycling businesses. Taxes paid by local small businesses go to support schools, parks, roads, and other programs that benefit the community as well.

## Support nonprofits

Local businesses often support good work in the community, such as nonprofit groups. These can include schools and sports teams, among other groups. According to Dr. Sue Lynn Sasser, professor of economics at the University of Central Oklahoma, studies indicate nonprofits "receive 250 percent more support from small businesses than larger ones."

## Support other local businesses

Local business support other local businesses by buy-

ing and selling among each other. A local, independently owned restaurant may source its ingredients from local farms, which means visitors to such eateries are supporting multiple local businesses each time they dine out.

Small businesses are a boon to the economy, particularly local economies. These enterprises help their communities in a multitude of ways.



**Open Tuesday to Saturday  
10:00am - 3:00pm**

**The Temple Children's Museum provides a welcoming environment  
where families can create memories through interactive play.**

- **Children under 12 months: FREE**
- **Children ages 1-17: \$6**
- **Adult ages and over: \$6**

**11 N, 4th St. Temple, TX 76501**



**info@templechildrensmuseum.org**

**254-500-7617**





**SENDERO**  
SHOOTING SPORTS

**BUSINESS HOURS**

SUN: 12PM-6PM  
MON/WED/THURS: 12PM-7PM  
FRI: 12PM-9PM  
SAT: 10AM-9PM

SENDEROSHOOTINGSPORTS.COM

(254) 613-4666

3360 W US HWY 190  
BELTON, TX 76513



**RETIRE IN THE HOME THAT'S  
RIGHT FOR YOU**



If you're 62 or older, by using a reverse mortgage loan, you can turn a portion of your home equity into cash you can use in various ways to enhance and/or extend your retirement.\* If you currently have a forward mortgage, a reverse mortgage could eliminate your monthly mortgage payment! (Borrower must live in the home, maintain it and pay property-related charges, like taxes and insurance)

**WHAT IS A REVERSE MORTGAGE LOAN?**

A reverse mortgage loan is reserved for borrowers 62+ who own their home outright or have significant equity, allowing them to turn a portion of that equity into tax-free cash for retirement.\*

The most common reverse mortgage loan is the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM), a Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured loan only available through an approved lender like Fairway.

**BENEFITS OF A REVERSE MORTGAGE LOAN**

- Turn your home equity into tax-free cash\*
- No mandatory monthly mortgage payments (Borrower must still pay taxes, insurance and upkeep fees)
- Never owe more than the home is worth when your loan becomes due and payable, and the home is sold
- Bridge the Medicare gap from age 62 to 65
- Pay for long-term care expenses



**Paul McCray**  
Fairway 365 Reverse  
Mortgage Specialist

254-933-0036

Email: paul.mccray@fairwaymc.com  
Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation  
3923 S. General Bruce Dr. Temple, TX 76502



**Brad Dragoo**  
Fairway 365  
Branch Manager

\*This information does not constitute tax/financial advice. Please consult a tax/financial advisor regarding your specific situation. \*\*There are some circumstances that will cause the loan to mature and the balance to become due and payable. Borrower is still responsible for paying property taxes, insurance and maintenance (and HOA fees, if applicable). Credit is subject to age, property and some limited debt qualifications. Program rates, fees, terms and conditions are not available in all states and subject to change.

Copyright©2023 Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation ("Fairway") NMLS#2289, 4750 S. Biltmore Lane, Madison, WI 53718, 1-866-912-4800. All rights reserved. Fairway is not affiliated with any government agencies. These materials are not from HUD or FHA and were not approved by HUD or a government agency. Reverse mortgage borrowers are required to obtain an eligibility certificate by receiving counseling sessions with a HUD-approved agency. The youngest borrower must be at least 62 years old. Monthly reverse mortgage advances may affect eligibility for some other programs. This is not an offer to enter into an agreement. Not all customers will qualify. Information, rates and programs are subject to change without notice. All products are subject to credit and property approval. Other restrictions and limitations may apply. Equal Housing Opportunity.



# VOTED BEST HOUSE LEVELING FOUNDATION REPAIR

**OVER 60 YRS. EXP**

**Claude Allen Specialized House Leveling Foundation Repair &  
Concrete**

**FIVE  
GENERATIONS**

**(254)931-0435**

**MASONRY – CONCRETE**

**WWW.CLAUDEALLENHOUSELEVELING.COM**

*Call us today to get  
on our level!*





# BEST COMMUNITY EVENT

## Downtown Belton MARKET DAYS

Crafts • Jewelry • Clothing • Art & Decor  
Housewares • Food & Drinks • Music



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTES

COVID-19 Safety Measures in place. Do not attend if you are sick or have flu-like symptoms. Face covering is required.



Learn more at [downtownbelton.com](https://downtownbelton.com)





WE ARE PROUD TO SERVE THE  
FINANCIAL NEEDS OF OUR BELL  
COUNTY COMMUNITY.

**GUNTER**  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
A Partner of  
**OakCrest**  
ADVISORS

**CALL OR VISIT US ONLINE TO  
LEARN MORE!**

☎ 254-613-5508

🌐 [www.gunterfinancialservices.com](http://www.gunterfinancialservices.com)

📍 204 N Penelope St, Ste A, Belton



**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT!**

Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. Gunter Financial Services & Oak Crest Advisors is not a registered Broker/Dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services. Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. member FINRA/SIPC. Raymond James is not affiliated with Reader's Choice.